



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
John Q. Adams and Raymond Larrick : Group Art Unit  
Serial No. 09/179,945 : Patent Examiner  
Filed: October 27, 1998 :  
For: Electronic Aid for Games :  
of Chance :

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98, submitted herewith is an Informationn Disclosure Statement on thirty-three (33) U.S. Patents along with a completed form PTO 1449. Copies of the thirty-three patents were previously submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the parent case, S.N. 08/709,221, of which this is a continuation-in-part application and are not separately submitted herewith:

U.S. PATENTS

2,760,619	4,651,995	5,356,144
3,671,041	4,661,906	5,393,057
3,786,234	4,747,600	5,401,024
4,019,174	4,768,151	5,494,294
4,080,596	4,798,387	5,507,489
4,121,830	5,157,602	5,518,253
4,373,726	5,242,163	5,613,680
4,378,940	5,265,009	5,674,128
4,445,025	5,297,802	5,679,077
4,475,157	5,326,104	5,683,295
4,494,197	5,351,970	5,687,971

The following is a concise statement of the relevancy of each of the references listed on PTO form 1449:

U.S. Patent 2,760,619 ('619) discloses amusement devices comprised of a player board for each player and having electric lamps arranged in rows and columns. The '619 patent does not teach, disclose or suggest the present invention of a computerized bingo aid that permits the selection of various brands of prestored bingo cards or bingo cards that are manipulated by a routine to determine the win/lose status of the one or more games being conducted.

U.S. Patent 3,671,041 ('041) discloses a bingo game comprising a player console having a plurality of groups of playing boards. The '041 patent does not teach, disclose or suggest a computerized

bingo aid having a readable memory for storing blocks of data representative of predetermined numbers and also representative of predetermined patterns so that a well known bingo game may be played.

U.S. Patent 3,786,234 ('234) discloses a system for a game of Keno including a plurality of transaction terminals each, in turn, including scanning means for sensing marked spots of a customer-marked Keno ticket. The '234 patent utilizing a scanning means does not teach, disclose or suggest a computerized bingo aid not burdened with the problems of scanning cards.

U.S. Patent 4,019,174 ('174) discloses a data collection and transmitting system including a dynamic MOS circulating memory. The '174 patent does not teach, disclose or suggest the bingo aid of the present invention that employs a processor involved with the performance of a game of chance and allows the processor to have an interactive dialogue with the player playing the game of chance.

U.S. Patent 4,080,596 ('596) discloses a lighted display board having a viewing face substantially divided into twenty-five squares arranged 5 x 5 matrix to simulate a bingo card and having a separate light positioned behind each square. The '596 patent does not teach, disclose or suggest a bingo aid having a readable memory

for storing blocks of data representative of predetermined numbers and also representative of predetermined patterns which are accessed by a processor during the performance of a game of bingo.

U.S. Patent 4,121,830 ('830) is directed to a bingo computer using a random access memory (RAM) which is time shared by an addressing display counter for display and addressing selection for new selections (pick). The '830 patent having a timed shared memory, does not teach, disclose or suggest the electronic aid of the present invention for performing a game of bingo having prestored digital values representative of bingo cards which are accessed by a program running in a processor to determine the win-lose status of one or more games being conducted.

U.S. Patent 4,373,726 ('726) discloses an automatic gaming system which employs a plurality of gaming cards used by the player and includes a card-dispensing unit. The card-dispensing unit includes means for reading from the gaming cards a coded representation of the game indicia format of the card. The electronic aid of the present invention is not burdened with a card reading device.

U.S. Patent 4,378,940 ('940) discloses an electronic device comprising a master controller, a card-input assembly that accepts

numbers as well as patterns where it indicates visual and optionally audible means when a win (i.e., "bingo") occurs. The electronic aid of the present invention is not burdened with means for reading numbers on bingo cards and subsequently storing the representations thereof as the set of data numbers.

U.S. Patent 4,445,025 ('025) is directed to an electronic card and board game which is assisted by a microprocessor in the selection of random numbers for the game. The electronic aid of the present invention does not utilize random number selections.

U.S. Patent 4,475,157 ('157) is directed to an electronic bingo-playing apparatus, and a method of operation thereof, that uses a hand-held portable computer which can store the contents of information from a plurality of standard bingo cards with the information being entered at the keyboard. The '157 patent further is responsive to set-up mode and load mode signals for accessing the bingo card content on which the data is entered. The electronic aid of the present invention is not burdened with neither an apparatus nor a method for entering the contents of a bingo card into a computer by means of a keyboard.

U.S. Patent 4,494,197 ('197) is directed to a wagering system having a central processor and a plurality of playing consoles that

are remote from the central processor, with the consoles capable of providing input data to the central processor. The bingo aid of the present invention does not include the use of a central processor and a plurality of playing consoles while at the same time provides for an electronic game that uses a processor to assist the operator by the use of prestored quantities.

U.S. Patent 4,651,995 ('995) is directed to a game device for simultaneously playing a plurality of bingo games. The '995 patent has a keyboard for manually loading coded representations of many bingo cards, which enable a player to program his own game, and to play a variety of games with each game being played simultaneously on a plurality of cards. The electronic aid of the present invention is not burdened with the need of entering coded representations of bingo cards.

U.S. Patent 4,661,906 ('906) discloses a special purpose microcomputer which allows for the simultaneously playing of a plurality of bingo cards. The bingo game includes a calculated circuit comprised of an 8-bit microprocessor chips which computes output instructions; i.e., processes bingo game information. The calculated circuitry includes means for skipping bingo stored card information for comparison when two missed comparison between a called and stored bingo numbers for each subdivision are obtained.

The electronic aid of the present invention utilizes a microprocessor and corresponding operating routines that are not burdened with the need of a calculator circuit.

U.S. Patent 4,747,600 ('600) is directed to an electronic gaming board comprising a microprocessor which includes means for communicating between the gaming board and external devices, means for storing information, means for executing a load mode of operation for entering arbitrarily selected numbers or symbols into a number of predetermined arrays, and means for executing a play mode of operation for operating on the arrays according to a predetermined set of game rules with randomly selected numbers or symbols. The electronic aid of the present invention has no need for randomly selecting numbers or symbols as well as no need for confining the entry of numbers from selected keys during a low mode of operation.

U.S. Patent 4,768,151 ('151) is directed to an electronic device for assisting individuals in the playing of bingo cards where a number of cards and a number of games are played during a session. The '151 patent has a read only memory (ROM) containing a bingo algorithm for playing the bingo game. The present invention is not limited to information stored in a ROM for determining the contents of its played game, but rather has its game information

furnished from a versatile media, such as a disk, having magnetic coded information thereon.

U.S. Patent 4,798,387 ('387) discloses a bingo gaming board that operates in two modes; a load mode and a play mode. During the load mode, a numerical array selected by a player are inputted to one array at a time into a display, one number at a time by depressing appropriate keys on a keyboard. The electronic aid of the present invention is not limited to entering information from a keyboard into the processor during the load mode of operation.

U.S. Patent 5,157,602 ('602) discloses a device for generating winning Lotto and Keno combinations. The device comprises means for inputting a number comporting to a total size of a lottery number polled. The electronic aid of the present invention does not include the burden of comporting for a total number of lottery number polled.

U.S. Patent 5,242,163 ('163) is directed to a casino bingo game comprising a plurality of gaming devices which allows a player to play a first game, such as stud poker. The casino bingo game further comprises a control station which is placed in communication with the gaming device and is capable of generating a first signal which can be detected at the gaming device to indicate

the beginning of a bingo session. The electronic aid of the present invention does not allow for audio interconnection between a plurality of games being played by a player.

U.S. Patent 5,265,009 ('009) is directed to a wristwatch-sized blackjack game decision prompt calculator which provides a player with instructions for the best probability of winning a blackjack game. The electronic aid of the present invention does not provide for any decision prompt calculator for winning a blackjack game.

U.S. Patent 5,297,802 ('802) discloses a system, and a method of operation thereof, to provide a mass audience television show based on a bingo game. The '802 patent employs a central processor that takes into account the number of cards, nationwide, that may be held by players. The electronic aid of the present invention provides for prestored quantities for a predetermined number of games to be played and does not take into account all of the possible games that may be played by all of the people throughout the nation.

U.S. Patent 5,326,104 ('104) is directed to an automated casino gaming system including a central game controller to which is connected a number of automated writer stations. The electronic

aid of the present invention is a "stand alone" device not tied to automated writer stations.

U.S. Patent 5,351,970 ('970) discloses a method and an apparatus for enabling bingo to be played in real-time at locations which are remote from the location where the numbers used to play a bingo card are being selected. The apparatus includes a central game station which also includes means for sequencing through each game in a predefined game schedule. The electronic aid of the present invention does not take into account remote locations that would otherwise require a central computer.

U.S. Patent 5,356,144 ('144) is directed to a hand-held lottery number generator having means for generating a plurality of random numbers akin to the numbers generated by the rolling of a pair of dice or the spinning of a roulette wheel. The electronic aid of the present invention does not employ a random number generator.

U.S. Patent 5,393,057 ('057) is directed to an electronic gaming apparatus that includes an electronic primary game, such as a poker gaming device for slot machine, and an electronic secondary game. The primary electronic game is electrically coupled to the secondary electronic game and the primary gaming device is

responsive to the occurrence of selected events for being inputted into the second gaming device. Although the electronic aid of the present invention does allow for playing of different games, such as bingo and lottery, the different games are not allowed to be played simultaneously, and there is no interlocking function therebetween, such as found in the '057 patent.

U.S. Patent 5,401,024 ('024) discloses a Keno type amusement device utilizing a microprocessor that generates random numbers. The electronic aid of the present invention has no need for generating random numbers.

U.S. Patent 5,494,294 ('294) discloses an amusement game wherein players seek an award by selectively starting and stopping a random number generator so as to match an indicia of the random number generator with an indicia of the players' playing card. The bingo aid of the present invention is not limited by a random number generator.

U.S. Patent 5,507,489 ('489) discloses an electronic game of chance device having a memory storage reference data, and a comparator to compare the reference data and the game data inputted by a player to values generated in a random manner. The electronic

aid of the present invention is not limited to the need of generating data in a random manner.

U.S. Patent 5,518,253 ('253) discloses a system, and a method of operation thereof, to provide a mass audience television game show based on bingo. The system includes a computer system that plays the selected bingo balls against all the entered bingo cards, determines a winner, and announces the winner over a television channel. The electronic aid of the present invention stores predetermined quantities and predetermined patterns so as to effectively define predetermined games of bingo and, more importantly, does not allow for any bingo game selected by any person throughout the nation to be accommodated.

U.S. Patent 5,613,680 ('680) is directed to game cards and a system for tracking game cards comprising a computer tracking system that is responsive to an activation step which includes the reading of the bar-coded information such as serial numbers or identification codes to identify the game card being played. The '680 patent discloses the use of a bar-code scanner that scans bar codes of cards to uniquely identify the particular card. The electronic aid of the present invention is not limited to having a bar-code scanner or any other scanning device.

U.S. Patent 5,674,128 ('128) discloses a coinless video game system that includes a plurality of video game terminals, a game server corresponding to each game terminal, and a central control network for administering and controlling games and players' accounts. The electronic aid of the present invention has no need for providing a plurality of video game terminals and has no need for a central control network for administering and controlling games and players' accounts.

U.S. Patent 5,679,077 ('077) is directed to a system, and a method of operation thereof, for remote players to select a number of a bingo card and have this card played in a local Do-It-Yourself bingo game. The '077 patent has means for printing game cards of the remote game players having associated players' identification.

The electronic aid of the present invention has no need for printing game cards.

U.S. Patent 5,683,295 ('295) is directed to an electronic bingo game which includes a first group of selectors, and selectors that are arranged in a particular location of a card and in an orderly manner representing numbers of the bingo card. The electronic aid of the present invention is not limited to such an arrangement of selectors.

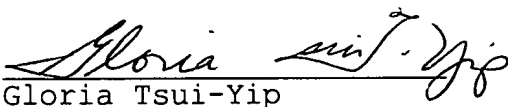
U.S. Patent 5,687,971 ('971) is directed to a bingo system for managing bingo cards and includes a central computer and a printer which is usually located at the site of the game location. The electronic aid of the present invention has no need for a central computer and no need for a printer to print out any bingo cards or any papers.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review each of the above-identified U.S. Patents and make it of record in the instant application as required by MPEP §609.

The patents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement comprise the most pertinent art known to the applicant and his attorney as of the date hereof. This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that no better art exists.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Adams

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GP. 3713

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.

In Re Application Of: **JOHN Q. ADAMS and RAYMOND LARRICK**

Serial No.

09/179,945

Filing Date

October 27, 1998

Examiner

Group Art Unit

Title: **ELECTRONIC AID FOR GAMES OF CHANCE**



Address to:

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

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**37 CFR 1.97(b)**

1. ☒ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application; within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

**37 CFR 1.97(c)**

2. ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after three months of the filing of a national application, or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or after the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurred last but before the mailing date of either:

1. a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, or
  2. a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311,
- whichever occurs first.

Also submitted herewith is:

- ☐ a certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

**OR**

- ☐ the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c).

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

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- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
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Dated: November 13, 1998

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)**Applicant(s): **JOHN Q. ADAMS and RAYMOND LARRICK**

Docket No.

Serial No.

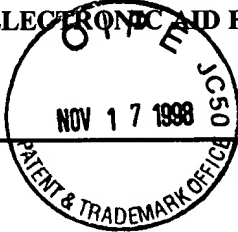
09/179,945

Filing Date

October 27, 1998

Examiner

Group Art Unit

Invention: **ELECTRONIC AID FOR GAMES OF CHANCE**I hereby certify that this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT***(Identify type of correspondence)*

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Tsui-Yip".

*(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)***Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.**